

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The large deposits of Plaster which rest apparently upon the gold-bearing rocks at Renfrew, within close proximity to some of the worked lodes, impart to the district a feature of peculiar geological interest. Altered sand-stones of probably Cambrian age are overlaid by lower Carboniferous deposits, and on Meadow Brook these rocks of such widely separated geological periods, may be seen in position within one hundred feet of one another. It is by no means certain that the Plaster lies on the surface of the gold-bearing rocks, the line of junction being concealed by drift, and it is not improbable that a dislocation occupies the valley of Meadow Brook, and conceals the lower carboniferous sand-stones and conglomerates which elsewhere are known to underlie the Plaster and rest on the older series.

The valley of Meadow Brook is of great interest from the fact that the wall of Plaster, protected in some measure by a ridge of the older rocks and by massive boulders, must have acted as a check to currents from a northerly to a southerly direction, and along its base it is not improbable that important alluvial deposits of gold will be found. The brooks which flow from the lakes on the west side of the districts, cross numerous lodes and have a considerable fall; where these empty into Meadow Brook alluvial deposit may also be expected. No search appears to have been made for alluvial gold in Meadow Brook, in consequence probably of the difficulties attending drainage.

Renfrew presents some advantages for prosecuting this kind of gold mining which may lead to unexpected results. Experience at Gays River, shows that the conglomerates at the base of the lower carboniferous series are auriferous in certain localities, and that the most valuable portion is at and near the junction of these with the gold-bearing rocks, on the rough surface of which and in the crevices of the slates, alluvial gold is found, which must necessarily be of carboniferous alluvial age.

This district occupies the summit of a low water shed which separates the valley of the Shubenacadie from the Bay of Fundy. It appears to lie on the same great east and west